

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending and allowed. By this Supplemental Amendment, claims 9-20 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added.

It is respectfully submitted that entry of this Supplemental Amendment is proper as the amendments are made to cancel the rejected claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments will place the application in condition for allowance. The amendments do not raise new issues requiring more than nominal consideration by the Examiner.

For the following reasons, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS IN THE OFFICE ACTION MAILED ON OCTOBER 17, 2006:

In the Office Action mailed on October 17, 2006, claims 9-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, and claims 9, 10, 14, 15, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kawano (U.S. Patent Application 2003/0072090 A1).

The rejections as to the cancelled claims 9-20 are moot. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Claims 1 and 3-8 are presently allowed.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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